



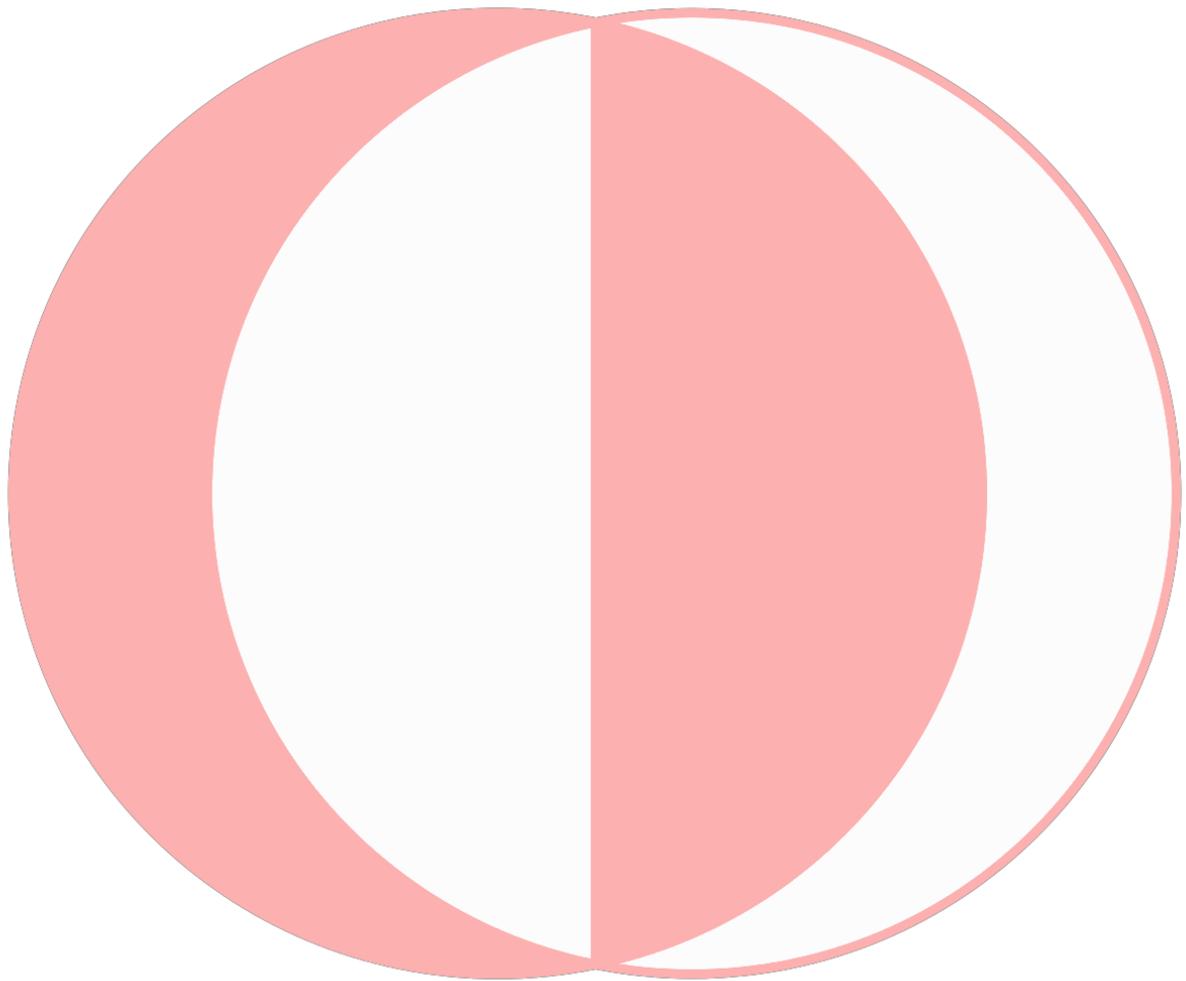
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# FEAS RESEARCH E-BULLETIN DECEMBER 2017



MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES



*From Fall 2016 to Spring 2017, 11 PhD candidates defended their theses and received a PhD degree from our Faculty. In this issue of the FEAS E-Research Bulletin, we acknowledge these new PhDs and provide the abstracts of their doctoral theses along with the names of their advisors and co-advisors. The doctoral theses in full can be reached from the METU Library.*

*I kindly acknowledge the assistance of the associate dean of FEAS Prof. Dr. Meltem Dayıođlu, our secretary Hülya Erkan and our assistant Melisa Nur Kart for their help in putting together this issue. FEAS Research E-Bulletins are available three times a year. We hope that they help inform the faculty members of the research taking place at FEAS and thereby, foster cooperation and joint-work among faculty members.*

*Prof. Dr. Özlem Özdemir  
FEAS Dean*

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## PHD THESES DEFENDED AT METU FEAS

❖ **FALL 2016 – SPRING 2017**  
**(including theses defended in Summer 2016)**

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*Author:* **Akkaya, Saffet**

*Title:* **US Foreign Policy and Violent Non-State Actors in the 2000s Cases of HAMAS And GAM**

*Supervisor:* **Prof. Dr. Özlem Tür Küçükaya**

*Department:* International Relations

*Date:* August 2017

*Abstract:* The Violent Non-State Actors (VNSA) play a substantial role in post-Cold War international relations. They influence the social, political and security environment at regional and international context. In this thesis, two Islamist VNSAs with similar specifications; HAMAS of the Middle East and GAM of the Southeast Asia have been studied. The purpose is to investigate the reasons why did the US actively pursued a conciliatory/inclusive approach towards GAM (Gerakan Aceh Merdeka/Free Aceh Movement in Indonesia) but not towards HAMAS (Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya/The Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine)? The conclusion is that the US foreign policy has come up with two different solutions in Palestine and Aceh conflicts; while GAM has been persuaded to end violence and transit into a peaceful political organization in Indonesian political system, HAMAS has not been so far. The factor which affects these two conflicts is the complex interaction amongst the US, the VNSAs (HAMAS and GAM) and the Parent states (Israel and Indonesia). In this complex interaction, the core element is the nature of the relations between the US administration and the Parent States (Israel and Indonesia).

*Author: Aslan, Murat*

**Title: NATO in Peace Support Operations: Efficiency of Intelligence and Propaganda in Bosnia Herzegovina and Afghanistan**

*Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ebru Boyar*

*Department: International Relations*

*Date: June 2017*

This thesis examines the efficiency of propaganda and affiliated intelligence functions of NATO in peace support operations. For this purpose, the research scrutinizes the context of peace support operations, NATO's conceptualizations of propaganda and intelligence, their practice in the field, and the shifts that have occurred in these conceptualizations. In order to analyse such issues, the NATO operations in BosniaHerzegovina and Afghanistan are examined in detail as case studies. Both cases are used to pinpoint the discourse of propaganda and affiliated intelligence activities of NATO in peace support operations as well as challenges, which are encountered by NATO in such operations. It is argued that as NATO failed to shift its conventional thinking, stemmed from the Cold War environment, it is late to respond newly emerging threat types, actors, and the requirements of peace support operations. NATO's experiences in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan demonstrate to what extent NATO was unable to address the population centric concerns which peace support operations should have taken more interest in and to what extent intelligence and propaganda efforts of NATO in such operations proved to be successful in responding to the actual needs and necessities for (un)successfully completing peace support operations.

*Author:* Çoban Balcı, Aslihan

*Title:* **Immigrant Organizations and Boundaries of Political Participation: The Case of Turkey Origin Immigrant Associations in Germany**

*Supervisor:* **Prof. Dr. Ayşe Ayata**

*Department:* Political Science and Public Administration

*Date:* January 2017

*Abstract:* This dissertation aims to explore different comprehensions of immigrants' political participation and/or integration adopted by two distinct groups of organizations founded by Turkey origin immigrants in Germany, namely religious immigrant organizations and secular immigrant organizations. To that end, the unique political practices of migrant organizations are comparatively analyzed with reference to their activities, objectives, decision making processes, organizational structures, and conceptions on political participation, democracy and integration. The data were collected through thirty six in-depth interviews with the executive or active board members of nine different migrant associations. The interviews were conducted in Cologne and Bielefeld within the years 2012-2013. The findings of the interviews reveal that the two groups of immigrant associations could be associated with two different social capitals, namely bonding social capital and bridging social capital. The dissertation also shows that in the relevant literature, there is little focus on the organizations which disseminate and carry bridging social capital. Thus, existing theoretical approaches on the immigrants' political participation in Europe is critically evaluated. Based on the findings, this dissertation argues that the mentioned bilateral differentiation among immigrant groups has some negative effects on the well-being of the immigrant community and on the social harmony in Germany.

*Author:* Demirel, Murat

*Title:* **The English School Theory and Turco-German Relations**

*Supervisor:* **Prof. Dr. Ahmet Nuri Yurdusev**

*Department:* International Relations

*Date:* April 2017

*Abstract:* The conception of the English School Theory of International Relations (E.S.) – international society is so far prevalently applied to the totality of a group of states and their interactions, and recently for regional interactions. However, E.S. notes less on the interactions among states. The ultimate goal of this dissertation is to fill this gap and bridge the conception of international society and its institutions with bilateral state relations, through a case study of Turco-German relations. To this end, the dissertation utilizes five systemic institutions defined by Hedley Bull: Balance of power, diplomacy, international law, war, and great power management. This effort aims to contribute to the existing literature by shifting the focus of the E.S. towards state-level analysis, and by providing a novel template for the analysis of bilateral state relations. The study asks how Germany and Turkey take international society's five systemic institutions into consideration while conducting their bilateral relations, and examines the Turco-German relations from 1701 to 1945, in three distinct periods. The main argument is as follows: Despite the fact that bilateral state relations in general, and Turco-German relations in particular are constrained and contoured by the institutions of international society; when individual and/or collective state interests come into conflict with these institutions, states tend to resist and transcend this institutional structure by producing alternative policies. However, these alternatives are not able to escape from the boundaries of international society's institutional framework, and emerge as policy substitutions within the same institution or policy-shifts towards other institutions.

*Author:* **Dinç, Deniz**

*Title:* **The Rise and Decline of Ethnic Mobilization and Sovereignty in Tatarstan**

*Supervisor:* **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şen**

*Co-supervisor:* **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Işık Kuşçu Bonnenfant**

*Department:* International Relations

*Date:* June 2017

*Abstract:* This thesis analyzes the rise and decline of the intertwined concepts of ethnic mobilization and sovereignty in the case of Tatarstan. The rise and fall of the ethnic revival of the Tatars is examined within a micro perspective as a part of the ongoing concept of autonomous sovereignty. The post-Soviet sovereignty experience of Tatarstan is evaluated within a macro chronological perspective taking the concept of state capacity into account. Research findings of this study reveal that the ethno-national nomenklatura network under the leadership of Mintimer Shaimiev was always the determinant in shaping the content of the ethnic revival in Tatarstan compared with the other rival actors, TOTs and Democratic Opposition. The legacy of the Soviet nationality policies formed a solid ethnicity regime structure, which created and constrained the Tatar nomenklatura elites. Thanks to this historical legacy, the Tatar nomenklatura elites mobilized and instrumentalized nationalism for their elite survival strategy and self-gain in the period of ethnic revival. During the 1990s, due to the expansion of the sovereignty of Tatarstan, the Tatar nomenklatura elites focused on obtaining as many concessions as possible from the federal center by putting forward the discourse of sovereignty. However, starting from the 2000s until today, the Tatar ethno-national nomenklatura exhibited a very submissive attitude against the overcentralization policies of Moscow. Having forgotten the sovereignty discourse of the 1990s, the Tatar elites currently chase federal subsidies and investments, which reveals how their pragmatic nationalist view easily adopts the new political conjectures

*Author:* Emen Gökatalaly, Gözde

*Title:* Turkish Press and the Turkish-Greek Relations (1946-1955)

*Supervisor:* Prof. Dr. Ebru Boyar

*Department:* International Relations

*Date:* August 2017

*Abstract:* This thesis examined the role of the Turkish press in the course of the Turkish-Greek relations from 1946 to 1955. These two neighbors initially achieved an exceptional and unprecedented partnership to counter a perceived threat from the Soviet Union and its satellite states in a hostile atmosphere of the emerging Cold War. Over the course of the period, however, the golden age of the Turkish-Greek relations was waned, and these two partners gradually turned against each other. Using the most circulated and influential daily newspapers of the period as well as the Turkish, British and American official documents, this thesis aimed to trace the role of the Turkish press in shaping the Turkish-Greek relations and influencing the slow but sure transition of Turkey and Greece from amity to enmity. Doing so, the press played several roles at different times with different degrees such as not only propagating and circulating the existing Greek policy of the successive Turkish governments and making the public support this policy but also challenging the official agenda and mobilizing the public perceptions. The Turkish press even led the government to reshape its policies of Greece on occasion. As this thesis argued, thanks to its intermediary position between the political elite and the public, the Turkish press took an active part in the formation of the Turkish-Greek relations throughout the period from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s.

*Author:* Erçandırılı, Yelda

*Title:* Green (in) Security in International Relations Theory: A Critical Realist Critique

*Supervisor:* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pınar Bedirhanoğlu Toker

*Department:* International Relations

*Date:* October 2017

*Abstract:* This thesis discusses the linkage between environment and security in International Relations (IR) Theory from a critical realist (CR) perspective. It questions the dominant concept of security in IR and asks whether IR theory is adequate to understand green (in)securities. This dissertation indicates the necessity of problematizing the linkage between environment and security in terms of the socio-natural complexities and emphasizes the dialectic relations of emerging features of these insecurities without being reduced them to their biological/material or cultural/ideational dimensions. What constitutes one another common point of the approaches in IR, excluding the natural or social aspect of environmental problems is that the (re)production of agent-centrism in describing the relationship between environmental issues and security. It is argued that the linkage between environment and security should be considered as comprising of multiple, complex inequalities or injustices underlining that the question of how social structures are shaped by the non-human nature. From this point of view, the concept of 'green', rather than of the environmental or ecological, is deployed in the thesis. In this sense, the concept of green (in)security is harnessed as a synonym of the concept of socio-natural (in)security in this dissertation. In doing so, the thesis seeks to criticize positivist, post-positivist approaches, arguing for non-reductionist a green (socio-natural) approach, based on CR.

*Author:* Ordu, Beyza Mina

*Title:* Essays on Empirical Testing of Financialization of Commodities

*Supervisor:* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adil Oran

*Department:* Business Administration

*Date:* January 2017

*Abstract:* Over the last decade commodity derivatives market experienced a significant influx of financial institutions, which is a phenomenon referred to as financialization of commodities. The main purpose of this thesis is to investigate whether financialization bolstered the connectedness between US stock and commodity markets. Connectedness can occur in forms of either spillover or co-movement and hence we analyze each form in two essays. In the first essay, we investigate volatility spillover between 25 commodity derivatives and US stock markets. Results show that the spillover between almost all commodity and stock markets increases significantly following the financialization. Moreover, we find that the net transmitter of volatility is commodity markets during pre-financialization period, whereas transmitters happen to be stock market after the financialization. Therefore, we show that commodities do not shield the investor from downside risk in financial markets, anymore. In the second essay, we examine the explanatory power of financialization on the increasing correlations between agricultural commodities and stock markets after 2008. Even though our findings support the argument on financialization; we find that explanatory power of financialization is highly dependent upon liquidity constraints.

*Author:* **Özdemir, Levent**

*Title:* **Relationship between Financial Development and Logistics Performance and Their Effects on the Competitiveness: An Empirical Cross-Country Study**

*Supervisor:* **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Engin Küçükkaya**

*Department:* Business Administration

*Date:* May 2017

*Abstract:* In financially developed countries, financial system produce information about possible investments to allocate capital, monitor managers and firms after allocating capital, facilitate risk management, mobilize savings and ease the exchange of goods, services and financial instruments. All these services enormously affect the countries' logistics performance which is backbone of trade. Because finance development enables the logisticians to deep and broad access to capital and financial services such as financing capital asset, working capital and inventory management, insuring or helping to hedge some sort of risks and easing exchange of goods/services/information. In turn, increased logistics performance boosts competitiveness of the countries. Thus, purpose of this dissertation is to examine relationship between financial development and logistics performance by taking into account state governance quality and countries' competitiveness.

*Author:* Öztürk, Ahmet

*Title:* Essays on Quasi-experimental Studies in Labor Economics

*Supervisor:* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hakan Ercan

*Department:* Economics

*Date:* September 2017

*Abstract:* This dissertation consists of two empirical papers that explore the causal relationship between education and labor market outcomes in Turkey based on quasi-experimental methods. The instrumental variable strategy has the potential to accurately estimate the true rate of return to schooling, but good instruments are hard to find. In the first essay of the thesis, I develop a new instrument from an unexpected decline in graduates and new admissions in post-secondary education from the student protests in the late 1970s and the coup in 1980. Using the 2005 Turkish Household Labor Force Survey, my instrumental variables estimates suggest that the economic return to an additional year of schooling in Turkey ranges between 11.6-12.8 percent for men. Moreover, I find that the decline in educational attainment due to student protests shifted the affected population from high-income occupations toward low-income ones. In the second essay, I examine the spillover effect of a large-scale primary school construction program (as part of the 1997 compulsory schooling law) on high school attainment and labor force participation using the 2011 Population and Housing Census. I employ a difference-in-differences strategy exploiting provincial differences in the intensity of construction program and the variation in exposure across birth cohorts induced by the timing of the program. The estimates suggest that the construction program increased the high school attainment rate by 2.1-2.4 percentage points for men and by 2.3-2.5 percentage points for women. While the program had no significant effects for the male labor force participation, it led to a 2.2-2.6 percentage point rise for the female labor force participation.

*Author: Yılmaz, Berkant*

*Title: The Invisible Capital*

*Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adil Oran*

*Department: Business Administration*

*Date: March 2017*

*Abstract:* This thesis analyzes the human capital and aims develop techniques to recognize human capital under Statement of Financial Position. National Basketball Association (NBA) players were used as a sample group because professional athletics are human intensive and players are the most valuable assets for their teams. The study includes the NBA team rosters for seasons between 2005-06 and 2013-14. A final list of 2,059 contracts for 774 players were grouped under three headings as "Option", "Minimum Salary" and "Cap Space" contracts in order to analyze the effect of field statistics on contract values. The results indicate that field statistics have an impact on contract values and the contract values determined by the market could be used to capitalize human capital.